



OPENING LECTURE — Shalom Paul, professor of Bible emeritus at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, speaks about the Dead Sea Scrolls in the first lecture to be held weekly in conjunction with the Dead Sea Scrolls & the Bible exhibition at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. (Photo courtesy of Southwestern Seminary)

Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit opens at Southwestern

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Hebrew University scholar Shalom Paul praised the Dead Sea Scrolls & the Bible exhibition at Southwestern in Ft. Worth, in the opening lecture of a series complementing the six-month event at the Texas campus.

Having had "the honor of opening up all of the Dead Sea Scroll exhibitions throughout the United States, each time with a different introductory lecture, there are several things that are very unique about this exhibition," said Paul, professor of Bible emeritus at the Jerusalem university and chairperson of the Dead Sea Scrolls Foundation.

"First of all, this is the first time ever that there is an exhibition taking place at a seminary. All of the others throughout the United States, from coast to coast, have been in museums and I think that is really a feather in your cap. ... That is very, very special."

"Also, you will be surprised to hear that there are scrolls here that have never been exhibited before, that have never left the safe-deposit boxes before, and that is something very unique, that you can be aptly proud of — that you can display to the

see EXHIBIT on p. 9

Glorieta sale turns to Calif. university

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The potential sale of LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico has turned from the Baptist Convention of New Mexico (BCNM) to a California-based Christian school, Olivet University.

The BCNM's Glorieta Task Force has notified LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville that it is not feasible for the state convention to assume ownership of Glorieta, even for the one dollar price LifeWay had previously set forth for (BCNM) to purchase the 2,100-acre site near Santa Fe.

LifeWay, meanwhile, has stated that it is considering a sale to Olivet contingent on a "comprehensive review of the theological compatibility" of LifeWay and Olivet.

BCNM executive board chair-

man Lamar Morin, pastor of First Church in Bloomfield, confirmed to Baptist Press in a July 16 statement that ownership and responsibility for Glorieta would not be financially feasible for New Mexico Baptists.

"The BCNM Glorieta Task Force believed any prudent business plan would include an environmental study and indemnification by LifeWay for any environmental problems that might be discovered," Morin said. "Based on its inspection of the property, the task force determined that a viable business plan needed to include deferred maintenance of \$10 million to \$20 million."

Morin said when LifeWay advised the BCNM it "could not

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Miss. abortion clinic to remain open after federal judge's ruling

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

U.S. District Judge Daniel P. Jordan III ruled on July 11 in Jackson that Mississippi's sole remaining abortion clinic can stay open while attempting to comply with a new state law that requires all physicians at the clinic on State Street in Jackson to be OB-GYNs and have admitting privileges at an area hospital.

Jordan had previously issued a temporary restraining order which blocked the law, passed during the 2012 regular session of the Mississippi Legislature and signed into law by Governor Phil Bryant, from taking effect on July 1. His July 11 ruling did not strike down the law but gave the Jackson Women's Health Organization more time to seek admitting privileges for the two unidentified out-of-state doctors that perform abortions at the clinic.

"The act will be allowed to take effect, but plaintiffs will not be subject to the risk of criminal or civil penalties at this time or in the future for operating without the relevant privileges," Jordan wrote.

Diane Derzis, owner of Jackson Women's Health Organization, has previously said that the out-of-state doctors who perform abortions at her clinic have applied for but not yet received admitting privileges from any Jackson-area hospitals. After the temporary restraining order was announced, Derzis was quoted in Jackson news media as saying the clinic would be open "for business as usual."

After the temporary restraining order was issued on July 1, Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, said, "Abortion is legal under federal court rulings, but that does not mean it is morally acceptable to everyone. Therefore the Mississippi statute signed into law by Governor Phil Bryant, requiring abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at a local hospital, is very sensible and not out of the ordinary."

"The CAC strongly feels that if the abortion clinic desires

to provide 'surgical services' or abortions, they should and must be held to the same standards demanded of other facilities providing the similar levels of health care."

Mississippi's top public officials and lawmakers have made no secret of their desire to see Mississippi become the first state in the nation to rid itself of abortion clinics. When Bryant, a first-term Republican, signed HB 1390 into law that would have required abortionists to be certified in obstetrics and gynecology and have hospital admitting privileges, he said, "This legislation is an important step in strengthening abortion regulations and protecting the health and safety of women. As governor, I will continue to work to make Mississippi abortion-free."

"We have an opportunity today with the signing of this bill to end abortion in Mississippi," said Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, also a first-term Republican, after Bryant signed the legislation.

Derzis was forced by health authorities earlier this year to shut down a sister clinic she owned in Birmingham. In a 76-page report released by the Alabama Department of Public

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Business as usual

The saga of Mississippi's lone remaining abortion clinic started a new chapter earlier this month when U.S. District Court Judge Daniel P. Jordan III issued a temporary restraining order that allowed Jackson Women's Health Organization on North State Street in Jackson to remain open.

On July 1, the clinic was slated to come under new regulations passed by the 2012 regular session of the Mississippi Legislature and signed into law by Governor Phil Bryant that would have mandated abortionists practicing at Mississippi clinics be certified as OB-GYNs and have admitting privileges at a local hospital.

That's really not too much to ask of an outpatient medical facility that performs such complicated and invasive surgery. (Despite what we've been told for decades by supporters and the mainstream news media, abortion at any stage is indeed a complicated and invasive.)

Diane Derzis, owner of Jackson Women's Health Organization, attests that the two out-of-state abortionists currently working at the clinic are OB-GYNs that qualify under the new law, but she says the pair has not been able to attain admitting privileges at any local hospital. There may be multiple reasons for that failure, but certainly those medical facilities realize their mission is to save lives, not to be part of taking lives.

At any rate, Jordan ruled on July 11 during a hearing on the restraining order that the law could take effect but the clinic must be granted additional time to try to gain hospital admitting privileges for the abortionists. While it's good news that the federal judge did not strike down the entire law, it's not so good news that the clinic is being allowed to skirt the law and continue to ply its deadly trade while searching for admission privileges.

Derzis, the clinic owner, was gleeful, telling local news media that it was "business as usual" at the clinic. Perhaps it's time to come to a greater understanding of what "business as usual" means for Jackson Women's Health Organization.

Derzis has in the recent past estimated that 2,000 abortions are performed annually at the clinic. Divided by the number of weeks in a year, that means about 40 abortions are performed each week. Maybe they perform more abortions in some weeks and fewer during other weeks or seasons of the year, but the point is that by the time you read these words, almost 120 babies will have died in the clinic since Judge Jordan's temporary restraining order went into effect.

That's the part no one wants to talk about. We like to argue law and religion, and whether one or both have any place in the argument. We don't mind taking up valuable court time for drawn-out hearings on the philosophy and legality of regulating abortion. The endless debates on "women's reproductive freedom" and viability and trimesters don't seem to bother us.

Just don't bring up the dead babies. Don't bring up the part about how individuals are torn limb from limb to more easily remove them from their mothers. Don't talk about how babies are burned to death by injecting harsh chemicals into their mothers. Don't describe how the skulls of full-term babies are crushed or pierced with surgical scissors to kill them after they're born. Don't think about how their mangled little bodies are disposed of like sewage.

Let's change the subject to "rights" — not the rights of the nascent and defenseless human beings inside their mothers, but the rights of people to live their lives as they please without consideration for the child. Let's tally up the cost for the inconvenience of feeding and caring for all those pesky little kids if we allowed them the chance at life. Let's talk about exporting abortion to other countries with our tax dollars. Let's talk about how sophisticated our abortion-crazy society thinks it is.

Let's talk about anything but the babies. The babies don't count. That's what is really meant by "business as usual." God help us, and quickly before anyone else has to die. Please.

Daughters of the King should check our closets

It's another Sunday. A scantily-clad female walks into the church. The mature men stare at the floor or walk off. The less trained men simply stare until she rounds the corner of the hallway and disappears out of sight. Unfortunately, she is not out of mind.

The male mind is an amazing creation. In God's sovereignty, He wired men to be extremely visual — an obvious blessing. It helps ignite relationships and holds marriages together. Unfortunately, like so many gifts that God has given, Satan has taken, twisted, and turned this one against us.

In light of this, I urge you, ladies, to consider your attire as you ready for worship. Let's not use our freedom in Christ to cause our Christian brothers to stumble. The Scripture calls us to be modest. I Timothy 2:9 says, "Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, with good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness."

As ladies who bear the name of Jesus, we should draw attention to Him and not ourselves. In an exercise of modesty, pray that the Lord will fill you with His Holy Spirit and help you die to self and lies of Satan. Then, go to your closet and inspect your clothes, keeping in mind the following five modesty standards. Remember we've been bought with the blood of Jesus; therefore, let us set ourselves apart from the negative fashions of this world for the sake of our husbands, sons, and brothers.

Avoid tight fitting clothes

Tight blouses, skirts, or pants accentuate the curves God has given you — and yes, it is a serious distraction for the men around you. If you can't take full steps or breathe easily while wearing a particular item of clothing, it is too tight. Find someone else smaller than you and bless them with it.

Evaluate necklines, waistlines

Today's fashion is dominated by low cut blouses and low rise pants, but we



Guest opinion
with Kelly Tucker

should not show cleavage. If you have a low cut blouse, consider combining it with an undershirt that has a higher neckline or with a cute cover sweater that you can button closed.

Strapless blouses or dresses, along with halter tops are low cut in nature and should be avoided altogether. Likewise, if you have low rise pants and are concerned that your skin is showing when you sit down, it probably is. Either ditch the pants or purchase a long blouse that comes well below the waist line.

Consider your hemlines

If you are worried about your bloomers showing when you sit down, it is time to give that skirt or dress to someone shorter than you. A professional dress code gives two inches above the knee as an acceptable length. By all means, consider if you'll be on the stage. Once you step onto the platform, your outfit appears even shorter. The fellows in the crowd will be staring at their shoes instead of worshipping the Lord.

For your shirts, apply the traditional arm raise test. If you raise your hands in praise and your middle shows, that blouse should go to someone else who needs it. You should be able to praise the Lord without reservations, and so should the guys around you.

Choose appropriate materials

Materials are just as important as lengths and cuts. Though sheer and see through materials are all the rage, they are

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THE Baptist Record

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbch.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbch.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbch.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbch.org

Circulation Manager
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbch.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Florio Paul Sims, Pontotoc
Berry Burris, Terry Carl White, Meridian
Billie Buckley, Petal
Russell Mord, Sturgis

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3600
Fax: (601) 252-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbch.org



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'WE INTEND TO STAY THE COURSE'

Popular restaurant chain weathers storms

CARY, N.C. (BP and local reports) — Dan Cathy oversees one of the country's most successful businesses. As president and chief operating officer of Chick-fil-A, Cathy leads a business with 1,608 restaurants that had sales of more than \$4 billion dollars last year. They sell chicken and train employees to focus on values rooted in the Bible.

His father, S. Truett Cathy, started the business in 1946 when he and his brother Ben opened an Atlanta diner known as The Dwarf Grill (later renamed The Dwarf House). In 1967, Truett Cathy opened the first Chick-fil-A restaurant in Atlanta. Today, Chick-fil-A is the second largest quick-service chicken restaurant chain in the United States based on annual system-wide sales.

Truett Cathy, at 91 years of age, is still involved in the management of the company he founded.

Dan Cathy's success has not erased the biblical values he learned as a child in a Baptist church. He is a warm, common man who is deeply committed to being a faithful Christian witness, and he is fully involved in New Hope Church in Fayetteville, Ga.

He drives Chick-fil-A's efforts to provide genuine hospitality, ensuring that customers have an exceptional dining experience in a Chick-fil-A restaurant. Based on Matthew 5:41, Cathy is on a mission to provide customers with "second-mile" service, exceeding even the highest expectations of a typical fast-food restaurant.

"We don't claim to be a Christian business," Cathy said in a recent visit to North Carolina. He recalled attending a business leadership conference many years ago where he heard Christian businessman Fred Roach say, "There is no such thing as a Christian business." Roach went on to say, "Christ never died for a corporation. He died for you and me."

"That got my attention," Cathy said. "In that spirit... [Christianity] is about a personal relationship. Companies are not lost or saved, but certainly individuals are."

"As an organization, we can operate on biblical principles so that is what we claim to be. [We are] based on biblical principles, asking God and pleading with God to give us wisdom on decisions we make about people and the programs and partnerships we have, and He has blessed us."

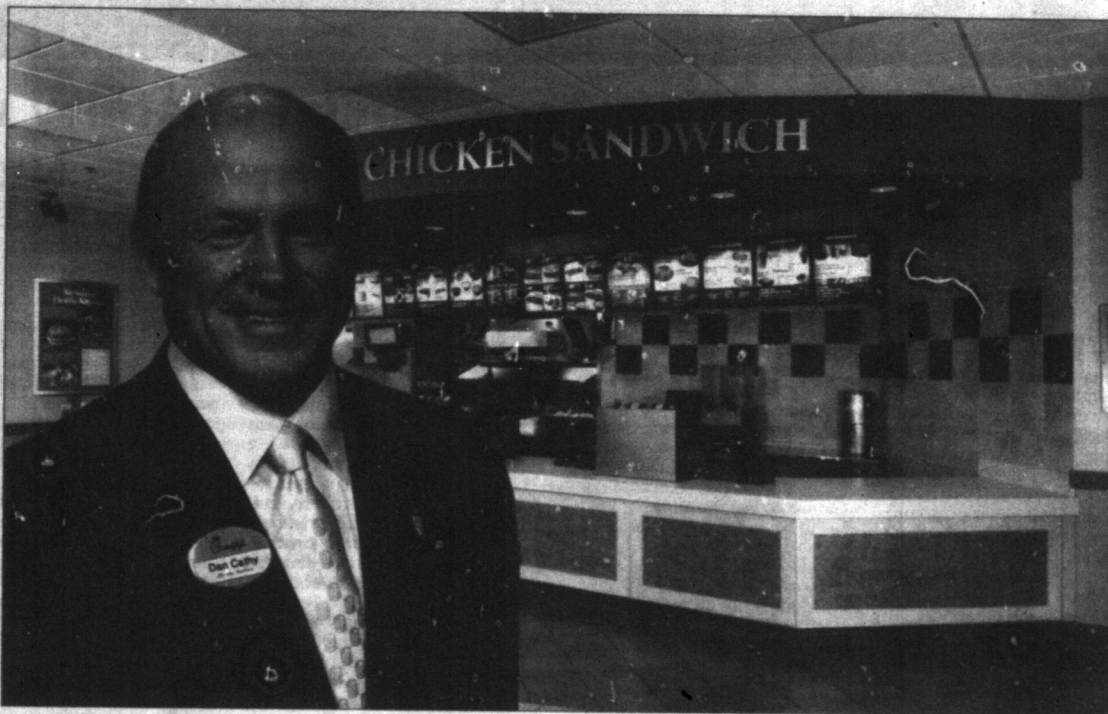
Rather than leading from his corporate office in Atlanta, Cathy chooses to spend the majority of his time traveling to the chain's growing family of restaurants and interacting with Chick-fil-A's committed team members. His actions stem from a belief that working in the field provides a clearer understanding of the needs of Chick-fil-A customers.

Leading from the front line also enables him personally to convey his servant spirit to the chain's 61,000-plus employees.

Cathy believes strongly that Christians are missionaries in the workplace. "Jesus had a lot of things to say about people who work and live in the business community," he said.

Cathy's goal in the workplace is "to take biblical truth and put skin on it. ...We're talking about how our performance in the workplace should be the focus of how we build respect, rapport, and relationships with others that opens the gateway to interest people in knowing God."

All throughout the New Testament



DAN CATHY

there is an evangelism strategy related to our performance in the workplace. ...Our work should be an act of worship. Our work should be our mission field. As long as we are stateside, let's don't think we have to go on mission trips by getting a passport. ...If you're obedient to God you are going to be evangelistic in the quality of the work you do, using that as a portal to share [Christ]," he said.

When asked if Chick-fil-A's success is attributed to biblical values, Cathy quickly said, "I think they're inseparable. God wants to give us wisdom to make good decisions and choices."

Quoting James 1:5, he spoke of how often he asks God for wisdom. "Frequently Jesus challenged us to just ask ...we're simply not asking as often as we should. We need to be more faithful to depend on a God who does love us and wants to have a relationship with us, and wants to give us the desires of our hearts."

There is another success story attributed to Cathy's organization. They have a positive influence in the world of Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and Southeastern Conference (SEC) football.

There was a time when the Atlanta college football bowl game, which is now named after Chick-fil-A, was called the Peach Bowl. The annual bowl features teams from the ACC and the SEC.

The annual event struggled for a long time. Then 15 years ago the Chick-fil-A organization got involved. It was rebranded as the Chick-fil-A Bowl and has been incredibly successful with 15 consecutive sell-outs.

"We are the only bowl that has an invocation. It's in our agreement that if Chick-fil-A is associated in this, there's going to be an invocation. Also, we don't have our bowl on Sunday, either," Cathy said.

In 2008 Chick-fil-A began sponsoring a Chick-fil-A Kickoff game matching two of the nation's top teams and hosted on the first weekend of the season in the same stadium (Georgia Dome in Atlanta) as the Chick-fil-A Bowl.

This year Chick-fil-A will host two kickoff games, one on Friday and one on Saturday. "That's never been done before," Cathy said.

The pair of Chick-fil-A Kickoff games is expected to generate more than \$60 million in economic impact. The bowl website describes the event as "a college football celebration of epic proportions."

When questioned about Chick-fil-A's "Closed on Sunday" policy Cathy responded, "It was not an issue in 1946 when we opened our first restaurant, but as living standards changed and lifestyles changed, people came to be more active on Sundays."

The policy has not changed over the years as malls began changing their policies by opening on Sundays. "We've always put in our lease that we will be closed on Sundays," Cathy said. "We've had a track record that we were generating more business in six days than the other tenants were generating in seven [days]."

"While developers had no identity whatsoever with our corporate purpose to 'glorify God and be a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us and have a positive influence on all that come in contact with Chick-fil-A,' they did identify with the rent checks that we wrote to the mall that were based on our sales, so they would make an exception for Chick-fil-A when they wouldn't make an exception for anybody else simply because they knew we would pay them more in rent than any other tenant would that was open even seven days a week."

The company invests in Christian growth and ministry through its WinShape

Foundation (WinShape.com). The name comes from the idea of shaping people to be winners. It began as a college scholarship and expanded to a foster care program, an international ministry, and a conference and retreat center modeled after the Billy Graham Training Center at the Cove.

"That morphed into a marriage program in conjunction with national marriage ministries," Cathy added.

Some have opposed the company's support of the traditional family. "Well, guilty as charged," said Cathy when asked about the company's position.

"We are very much supportive of the family — the biblical definition of the family unit. We are a family-owned business, a family-led business, and we are married to our first wives. We give God thanks for that."

"We operate as a family business ...our restaurants are typically led by families. Some are single. We want to do anything we possibly can to strengthen families. We are very much committed to that," Cathy emphasized.

The restaurant chain has come under attack for that stance. A radically pro-homosexual group named Equality Matters has accused the company's WinShape Foundation charitable arm of donating millions of dollars to what it terms "anti-gay" groups — Focus on the Family, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Exodus International, and Family Research Council.

There are even several ongoing pro-homosexual campaigns and petition drives across the country whose goal is to hound Chick-fil-A restaurants off particular campuses — including in Mississippi.

"We intend to stay the course," Cathy said. "We know that it might not be popular with everyone, but thank the Lord, we live in a country where we can share our values and operate on biblical principles."

Countering political and social hostility with holiness

Christians throughout Christendom have been subject to hostility and ridicule – beginning first and foremost with Jesus Christ when King Herod sought to kill Jesus as a child, and as a man he was crucified under Roman authority.

Jesus spent a lot of time with the disciples, and they learned from him how they were to handle themselves in times of adversity. Peter, who wrote the Book of 1 Peter, was one of those disciples.

Among the greatest examples that Peter could have learned from Jesus about persecution was of our Savior's death on the cross. In 1 Peter 2:23, Peter said concerning Jesus, "who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously."

Peter devotes much of his book to the subject of how Christians are to handle themselves during hostile times. Regardless of one's station in life Christians are to follow Christ's example during hardship and hostility (1 Peter 2:21).

There is strong support and consensus that 1 Peter was written around A.D. 62-64. If so, this date would have been just prior to the persecution of Christians that intensified after the burning of Rome in A.D. 64 dur-

ing the reign of Roman Emperor Nero from A.D. 54-68.

Historians tell us that Peter was crucified during the reign of Nero and that Nero also tortured and murdered Christians by burning them alive.

According to Peter, when a Christian's faith is put to a test and they face hostile persecution, there are several values to adhere to and foundational to their holiness.

Today, Christians are no less immune to being ridiculed and persecuted. Jesus said that in this world we will have trouble. James said that Christians will face a multitude of trials. So, the idea that believers are only to experience health, wealth and prosperity is an absurd and false teaching.

What concerns many Christians in America today centers around the political, economic and religious turmoil in our country and around the world.

More and more leaders in this country are embracing values that are contradictory to biblical teaching. For example, marriage is no longer commonly held as a sacred union between one man and one woman by many political and religious lead-

ers. They incorrectly argue that homosexuality is normal and to deny them the right to marry is a violation of their "civil rights."

It has been predicted that preaching on the sin of homosexuality will even be made illegal in the future, and those who preach on it may even be arrested for doing so.

The recent healthcare mandate is alarming for many and for various reasons, but it is the violation of one's religious liberty to mandate Christians to pay for abortions through a federal tax that should concern us.

Another issue that concerns many Christians is the financial condition of the U.S.A. and global markets. A financial burden has been placed upon the people of America that even if national spending were held to a minimum it would take generations to pay off existing debt.

Since it appears excessive

spending will not be contained and taxes are on the rise, many people agree with economists who say the financial indicators are present for a significant adjustment in the market along with increasing interest rates and inflation.

Given the present and possible future condition of our country, how are Christians to respond to all this? How should we brace ourselves?

According to 1 Peter 1:3, Christians are to maintain a positive attitude. Peter says we have a "living hope" through the risen Christ. Even though trials will come, it is certain that we can remain hopeful because we have the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide us. Jesus said, we are to "be wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16).

So far as the law and government leaders, Peter says, "Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do

good" (1 Peter 2:13-15). He also says in v.17 that Christians are to "honor all people ... honor the king."

It is interesting that Peter included these verses as he was writing from Babylon (5:13), which some argue to be Rome. Rome was the super power which stood in stark contrast to many of the values of the first century church. Emperor worship, for example.

But when the law contradicted God's command to proclaim the gospel, Peter's response to the Sanhedrin was, "We must obey God rather than men!" (Acts 5:19).

In the event of opposition, hostility and persecution, Peter says Christians, above all else, are to remain "holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'" (1:15-16).

Chambers serves as consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3331 or rchambers@christianaction.com.



with Rob Chambers

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ROY, FSY KTO CXSZGB GW ZGY XE FX

TFSV: LODOSK MO, FSY VORXOIO KTO

ZGEDOR.

BFLC GSO: WXWKOOS

Clue: W = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-four: Forty-five

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Just for the Record



The youth of **PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, TIPPAAH COUNTY**, attended camp at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko.



The GAs of **GOOD HOPE CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA**, dressed in clothes from all over the world as Amanda McDonald spoke to them about honoring God and serving Him as missionaries of His Word no matter where they are in the world. Shown are Elizabeth Guess, Katie Savell, Ruby Fowler, Marlee-Keeton Pierce, and Gracie Schillaci. Amanda McDonald, back row.



John Tedder, left, ordained Bobby Kendall, right, as deacon of **CLEAR SPRING CHURCH, COFFEEVILLE**, June 24.



FIRST CHURCH, HICKORY FLAT, recognized deacon Will T. Hudspeth for 83 years of service to the Lord and to the church. Hudspeth, 94, has been a member of the church since 1928. He has held the office of church clerk and financial secretary for 57 years and has served as deacon for 50 years. He is shown with one of his sisters, his son, daughter-in-law, two grandsons, and three great-grandchildren.



The youth of **BUNKER HILL CHURCH, COLUMBIA**, participated in MissionFuge June 18 - 23, at North Greenville University in South Carolina. The group participated in mission opportunities such as nursing home ministries, playground ministries, and construction work.

TRINITY CHURCH, MONROE COUNTY, recently held an RA and GA recognition service for seven who had earned badges and certificates. Shown are six with their leaders: Elizabeth McNeese, Ryan Christian, Ciera Stanley, Brandon Denton, Dylan Christian, Hannah McNeese, Carleigh Goode, and Nancy Blalock.



TISHOMINGO CHURCH, TISHOMINGO, presented a skit, Fishers of Men, promoting North American Missions. Shown are Matt and Lydia Anglin.

NORTH COLUMBIA CHURCH, COLUMBIA, recognized high school seniors Katie Nolan, Josh Pittman, and Adam Weatherford. Mike Grenn, pastor.



The 2012 Summer Olympics are upon us. Hours of competition will be shown and medals earned, but often those who do not win provide the greatest inspiration. Eric Moussambani is a swimmer from Equatorial Guinea who swam in the 2000 Summer Olympics at Sydney, Australia. He did not win a gold medal, a silver medal, or even a bronze medal. He did not break any records. He simply finished the race.

At the qualifying race, Eric Moussambani was supposed to race against two others, but they jumped the gun twice and were disqualified, so he was the only person swimming in his qualifying event. The event was the 100 meter freestyle and the distance was further than Eric had attempted before. Thousands gathered at the swimming venue. As the gun went off Eric dove into the pool to swim his qualifying event in the 100 meter freestyle. It was a magical moment as this fine young athlete, who had never seen an Olympic size pool before coming to the games, splashed through the water back and forth with little style over the 100 meters. Eric did not set any records for the 100 meters. In fact, it took him longer to swim the 100 meters than the world record for the 200 meters, but he trudged on through the water.

The Olympic crowd at Sydney was electrified and they were cheering and chanting with every stroke he took. Finally, exhausted, he hit the wall.



The Instigation of Inspiration

He had finished the race! It truly was an incredible moment as the crowd was immersed in a frenzy of excitement. At the swimming venue and by television around the world, he had inspired literally millions. It was not by his grace and style, and it was not because of his achievement of excellence, but because he had finished the race.

Earlier in the week it was Eric Moussambani who had been chosen to carry the flag for Equatorial Guinea. He accepted the honor and privilege with very humble reluctance because he was afraid that he would embarrass his country in the swimming event. He did not! A man with only modest

ability had come to the Olympics and put on a display of unequalled courage and determination for the world to watch. Since the only measuring tool for the 100 meter freestyle was a stopwatch, Eric Moussambani was not recognized as a winner.

There were no medals awarded, no music, and no fanfare — all because a stopwatch could not measure what he had brought to the Olympic Games. But somehow the crowd knew and somehow the worldwide watchers knew. They knew that this guy had brought something that was more than muscle and quickness and had lifted all of us ordinary people who seek to live extraordinary lives to new

dimensions. One man had inspired us and it would be hard to forget what he did.

It may be that Eric Moussambani is the embodiment of 99.9% of us. For, like at the Olympics, so many areas of life are measured with a small tool and who we are and what we are may not register. We take tests in the classroom and they may not clearly evaluate our skills. We sell, process, practice law and medicine, preach, teach, nurse, and raise families. We build, repair, and run the race. Yet we sometimes wonder, "Does it make any difference?" As we look around, we see folks who are remarkably like Eric Moussambani. They seem to rise up with a spirit of determination and courage, and literally inspire us and make an incredible difference in our world.

I think of those folks who have made a difference in my life. It is not because they were so smart or because they were amazingly gifted. It was because they showed up to teach Sunday School, lead some RA boys, sing a song, or drive a van. Often it is those folks who portray for us in living form the love of God and the likeness of Jesus. Their inspiration lingers! Thank you, Eric, for swimming our way and thanks to so many of you for serving our Lord and blessing His people.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

Vacation Bible School



MILITARY CHURCH, SUMRALL: Average of 94-98 children per night.



NORTHSIDE CHURCH, VICKSBURG: June 4-8; enrollment, 80, with nine professions of faith.



FIRST CHURCH, PLANTERSVILLE: Family night.



WEST HEIGHTS CHURCH, PONTOTOC: June 4-8; enrollment, 325.

Just for the Record



FIRST CHURCH, TUPELO, recognizes its children's Bible drillers: Front row, Cate Burroughs, Ginger Holloway, and Claire Burroughs; back row, Ben Russell, Eli Flowers, and Jay Henderson.

The choir of **BLUFF SPRINGS CHURCH, MAGNOLIA**, presented *The Spirit of America* July 1. Shown are the members.



ROUNDAWAY CHURCH, DODDSVILLE, held a men's bake-off June 24. Shown are Edger Donahoe, Bobby Kirk, Aubry Bruckner, pastor Bob Hill, and William Hancock.

Children of **IMMANUEL CHURCH, MID-DELTA ASSOCIATION**, recently visited residents at Cleveland Personal Care and Indywood Estates to sing patriotic songs and give away flags to celebrate the 4th of July. Shown is Indywood resident and Immanuel Church charter member, Mary Nell Stewart, with the children.



*"May I commend to you Dr. Fritzell's new book, **Forty Days of Seeking God.**" This powerful work calls us to the place of spiritual intimacy where we can do business with God.*

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*In Christ,
Dr. Frank Page,
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- To Lead Churches into Biblical Revival
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Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

College News

► **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** will hold the annual Endowed Scholarship Dinner featuring keynote speaker Gov. Phil Bryant at Southern Oaks House and Gardens on August 21. The evening will consist of a VIP reception and a dinner with musical entertainment

and an address by Gov. Bryant. The reception begins at 6 p.m. and the dinner at 7 p.m. A special scholarship will be established in honor of Gov. Bryant. For more information and ticket prices you may contact Lynne Houston at (601) 318-6231 or lhouston@wmcarey.edu.

CLINIC

cont. from p. 1

Health after three of Derzis' patients had to be rushed to the hospital in one day, investigators found:

- Clinic staff was not properly trained in patient care.
- No documentation that clinic doctors were qualified to perform abortions.
- Doctors submitted documentation for patient care

that was simply false.

- Lack of documentation on medications administered.
- Altered notations on patients' charts.

- Equipment with expired inspection dates or no inspection dates at all.
- Failure of the on-call nurse to return patients' calls about complications.

- Failure to notify clinic physician of patients' problems.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by this newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or objectionable photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

TUCKER

cont. from p.2

not acceptable for a daughter of the King. If your undergarments show through your clothes, consider purchasing a slip or layering thicker materials underneath. After all, if you expose yourself to the guy next to you, you become a stumbling block to him.

Moreover, wearing thin knits, spandex, or other clingy fabrics shows off every curve and crevice of your body. The best remedy for this is to avoid those materials altogether. Never compromise modesty for fashion.

Immodest trends

The recent trend of wearing bold writing across the behind and chest purposefully

draws attention to these areas and should be avoided. Also, showing off brightly colored bra straps is popular. Remember, showing off undergarments is never appropriate; revealing the heart of God to others around you is.

Achieving modesty in the fashion area is our responsibility. Though this may not be easy for some ladies due to their body types, let's not make excuses. I know you are busy — concerned with finances, time frames, and appearances. Despite some inconvenience, it is well worth the time to teach our girls habits of modesty that will last them through adolescence and into adulthood. Be direct and model it for them.

Our dedicated, church going men are entrenched in a spiritual battle for their purity. They are tired of going to church and staring at their feet while

ladies wear all types of immodest clothing. Sisters, this ought not be. What about the guy that steps off the street and into the church for the first time? Will he find the Lord, or will we as fashionable ladies hinder that pursuit?

As Philippians 2:15-16 says, "[Let us] prove ourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom we appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life..."

Tucker is a member of 38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, and a mathematics instructor at Pearl River Community College. She and her husband of 14 years, Brandon, reside in Purvis with their two daughters: Elizabeth, age five, and Rebekah, age two.

OBITUARY

Services for Robbie Beall Petty were held Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 11:00 AM from McClain-Hays Funeral Home Chapel in Philadelphia, MS with Dr. Eugene Dobbs officiating. Burial followed in Eastlawn Cemetery in Philadelphia with McClain-Hays Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Petty, 86, died Saturday, July 14, 2012 at her Pontotoc home after a brief illness.

She was born in Neshoba County on July 26, 1925 to Reverend E.A. Beall and Iva Gamblin Beall.

She graduated from Arlington High School and attended Mississippi College. She married George F. Petty on December 20, 1946. Following college she lived in Philadelphia, Mississippi from 1948 to 1964. There, she was a member of the Lydian Music Club and sang in the women's sextet. In 1964 she relocated to Tunica, where her husband was Principal, Tunica High School, and — subsequently — Superintendent, Tunica County Public Schools.

Mrs. Petty and her family moved in 1970 to Drew, where Mr. Petty was Superintendent, Drew Public Schools. Wherever she lived, she was an active and faithful member of the Baptist church, serving as Sunday School teacher, G.A. leader, W.M.U. leader and choir member.

In 1982 the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board appointed Mrs. Petty and her husband missionary associates to Oghonsoho, Nigeria, where they served from 1982-1989. After their African mission, the Petties returned to their native

Neshoba County. Mrs. Petty and her husband resided in Oxford from 1996 to 2005, when they moved to Pontotoc to be closer to family.



PETTEY

Freston Jones, Haley Jones, Anna Scott Boyette and Alexandra Boyette, all of Pontotoc; sister, Patsy Beall McGee of Perry, Georgia and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and by her brothers, John William Beall and Curtis Beall.

Memorials may be made to: Mississippi Baptist Children's Village, 805 N. Mag Chapel Rd., Jackson, MS 39209-2208.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Bethel Church, Water Valley:** Revival, July 29 – Aug. 3; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. – Fri., 7 p.m.; Rickey Harris, speaker; Steve Frederick, music.

► **Liberty Church, Nettleton:** Revival, July 29 – Aug. 1; Sun., 5:30 p.m.; Mon. – Wed., 7 p.m.; special singing each night; Gary Marks, speaker.

► **New Henleyfield Church, Pearl River County:** Homecoming, July 29; time of remembering and looking back, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds.

► **Crooked Creek Church, Silver Creek:** Old Fashion Day, July 29 and homecoming, Aug. 5; Justin Hase, speaker; Tim Frith and Gospel Echoes, music; Chad Carney, pastor.

► **Calvary Church, Carroll County:** Revival, July 22 – 25; Sun., 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Dennis McKay, speaker; Jimmy Hood, music.

► **Antioch Church, Brandon:** Homecoming and revival, July 22 – 25; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Gayden Harrell, speaker; Natalie Duncan Emmons,

music; Mon. – Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Buckley, speaker; Curtis Carter, music.

► **West McComb Church, McComb:** Revival, July 22 – 25; Sun., 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. – Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, speaker; Phillip Willis, music.

► **Old Hebron Church, New Hebron:** Revival, July 22 – 25; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 1:30 p.m.; Mon. – Wed., 7 p.m.; Ron Ballard, speaker; Sue Ballard, music; Terry Phillips, pastor.

EXHIBIT

cont. from p. 1

community things that are unique."

"During his lecture, Paul recounted why the Dead Sea Scrolls have value for understanding the Bible, early Judaism, and the birth of Christianity.

Before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947, he said, the oldest copy of the Hebrew Old Testament available to scholars was transcribed 1,000 years after the birth of Christ.

"Then came the Dead Sea scrolls, which now gives us manuscripts which are 1,000 years

earlier [than the earliest copies we previously had]," Paul said, "and the amazing thing is that, when you look at the gigantic 22-foot Isaiah Scroll, it is very close to what we have today."

The Dead Sea Scrolls also give scholars insight into the diverse forms of Judaism that existed at the time that Christ walked the earth, Paul noted, reminding attendees that these forms of Judaism provided the matrix in which early Christianity developed.

The group from Qumran that preserved the Dead Sea Scrolls also shared some beliefs with early Christians, although these two groups differed in significant ways. For example, the Qumran

group looked forward to the coming of a messiah — actually, two messiahs — and they believed in an imminent apocalypse.

Paul's July 10 lecture opened the Joan and Andy Horner Lecture Series, underwritten by Premier Designs and scheduled every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the exhibition in Southwestern's MacGorman Performing Arts Center.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 2 marked the beginning of the exhibition, which runs through Jan. 13. Representatives from the state of Israel, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Texas Senate, and the City of Fort Worth were in attendance.

Guy Cohen, cultural attaché to the Consulate General of Israel, shared a word of greeting on behalf of the state of Israel.

"I want to thank Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Hebrew University in Jerusalem for making this piece of life possible to travel from the Dead Sea in Israel to being seen here in Fort Worth, Texas, so far from where it was found," Cohen said.

"Discovering and learning about our history is the most significant step toward understanding our present and building toward our future. We all know this and yet would rather deal with the present and plan for the future without acknowledging that the source to our present and our future is based upon the past, and the deeper we dig, the more significant the findings are."

Kristi Wiseman, a representative from state Sen. Wendy Davis' office, read a Texas Senate proclamation celebrating the occasion. Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price also voiced a welcome to those gathered and expressed her appreciation for all the work put into bringing the exhibition to Fort Worth, especially the efforts of seminary president Paige Patterson and his wife Dorothy.

Patterson shared the significance of the preservation of the Dead Sea Scrolls over the years, saying, "By careful operation, these scrolls have been preserved. Why are they important? Why would they bring together the Christian and Jewish communities? They bring us all together because they represent the Word of the Lord, preserved now miraculously for more than 2,000 years so that we can know that what was written initially is essentially, exactly what we have today in your Bible — the Word of God for God's people wherever they may be."

The exhibition includes a simulated archaeology dig site, which is a scaled replica of the ancient site of Qumran near the Dead Sea where the scrolls were found. The Smithsonian Institution donated 20,000 pounds of potsherds, which can be taken home by children who unearth them as they dig.

To learn more about the Dead Sea Scrolls & the Bible exhibition and the corresponding archaeology dig site and lecture series, visit seethescrolls.com.

GLORIETA

cont. from p. 1

indemnify the state convention as requested, the task force could not proceed any further."

Morin acknowledged the "deep love and devotion New Mexico Baptists" have for Glorieta but said the task force "recognized, despite multiple suggestions, there was no offer of financial resources by any person or organization to cover the enormous costs and potential liabilities of assuming such a large property."

LifeWay trustees voted last fall to pursue viable options for the conference center, which opened 60 years ago. Officials cited changes in church practices, rising costs, and a volatile economy in noting that Glorieta had achieved financial break-even only once in the last 25 years.

Glorieta now offers only summer events for student groups, including Centrifuge camps and Collegiate Week.

LifeWay, in information provided to Baptist Press July 16, said it is working with Olivet and an evangelical third party to conduct the theological compatibility review. During the process, LifeWay said Olivet is renting previously unused facilities at Glorieta for 200 students, faculty and staff.

Glorieta's history dates back to the mid-1940s, when Southern Baptists wanted a conference facility in the west to correspond with Ridgecrest Conference Center in the east. Harry P. Stagg, New Mexico Baptists' executive director at the time, helped secure an 800-acre ranch near Santa Fe through special gifts and the sale of state convention property.

The ranch, along with adjacent land, was a gift from New Mexico Baptists to the Southern Baptist Convention. At the time, New Mexico Baptists numbered fewer than 35,000 people in 166 churches. In 1949, the SBC Executive Committee authorized the official development of the western assembly located at Glorieta.

The first Southern Baptist conference at Glorieta, "a place of decision and life dedication," was held in August 1952, with more than 1,400 registered guests from 18 states. The first full summer of conferences was in 1953.

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UNION HALL BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR. Resumes may be mailed to the church at: 1242 Nola Road N. E., Brookhaven, MS 39601. Attention: Youth Director Search Committee.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN OAK GROVE IS SEEKING A PART-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER. We will be taking resumes now-August 10. Send resumes to calvarychildrensearch@yahoo.com.

FBC INDIANOLA, MS IS SEEKING A PART TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please mail resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 366, Indianola, MS 38751 or e-mail them to fbciandole@gmail.com

LEMOYNE BLVD. BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A PART TIME MINISTER OF WORSHIP. Please contact Alan Kuhn at 228-861-8152 or send resume to: Lemoyne Blvd. Baptist Church, 15005 Lemoyne Blvd., Blount, MS 39532.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH COFFEEVILLE IS SEEKING A PART TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please mail resumes to P.O. Box 240 Coffeeville MS or e-mail to fbccof7878@gmail.com.

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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

APRIL 2012

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Kenneth Gary Walters
Keith & Janice Culpepper
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Mack Garrett
Mary, Jim, Opal & Casey Garrett
Lena Golmon
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Peeler
Mr. George W. Gordon
Helen & Jim Smiley
Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. Blackledge
Jo Ann (Bowie) Graves
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Tharp
Mrs. Bernice Green
Mr. & Mrs. Jennings Dixon
Mrs. Myrtis Greer
Curtis & Kaye Buchanan
Leo Griggs
Sr. Men's SSC, Morrison
Hights BC
Mr. & Mrs. Hale Singletary
Hunter Grissom
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys
Effie Gunn
Briarwood Drive BC
Mrs. Neoma Guyton
Bovina BC, Vicksburg
Peggy Hackney
Ladies Promise SSC, Park
Place BC
Lanelle Hall
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Jo Lynn Haney
Fred & Hilda Blackledge
Mr. Jim Hankins
Pat & Thomas House
Audrey Hanna
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
James Hardin
Mrs. Beannice Hardin
Jane Magness Hardin
Mrs. Jewel H. Traywick
Dave & Sally Hermetet
Kenneth & Jo Magness
Ms. Virginia M. McGougan
James Hardy
East Louisville BC
Mrs. Barbara Hardy
Mrs. Mera C. Hall
Wilbur & Grace Harpole
Mrs. James F. Yates
Mrs. Sarah Harrell
Mrs. Mera C. Hall
Leatrice Harris
Ms. Martha H. Klepzig
Willo Harrison

Pat & Betty Ruth
Mrs. Mellie Hartfield
Mrs. Gladys R. Harvey
Jean Daughtrey Harvey
Ken & Mary Nell Sartin
Carr Haskins
Mr. Kirk Haskins
Eloise Hatcher
Ms. Carolyn M. Nix
Mr. Abb Hatten
Mr. C. H. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. C. Gene Cryder
Christopher Hebert
Arlington Heights BC,
Pascagoula
John Wesley Herring
Ms. Veleria Butler
Barbara Ann Hilderbrand
Tinsley BC
Anna M. (Lee) Holden
Mrs. Pat H. Stanford
Dewitt Louis Holliman
Ms. Marsha M. Altman
Mrs. Margaret Nell Holmes
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Ms. Teresa Poindexter
Calhoun
Pauline Holmes
Barbara Fuller
Carl E. Howard II
Carl & Bettye Howard
Leone Davis Howard
Mr. John Davis
John & Martha Howarth
Mr. & Mrs. Harry L. Howarth
Mrs. Fisher Hubbard
Dale & Joan Rowsey
Jean & Hank Robison
Mrs. Terri Huey
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mr. Thomas Jackson
Mr. Larry Hood
Mrs. J. Charles Jenkins
Ms. Jennifer Cooley
Mary Ellen Johnson
Gary & Pat Ledbetter
Mrs. Ruth V. Johnson
George & Ruth Crawford
Virginia Johnstone
Mrs. Kitty Brewer
Rev. Fred Jolly
Jimmy & Billie Breland
William Henry Jones
Mrs. Faye Steed
Dr. W. M. (Whip) Kennedy
Billy & Tanya Moore
Mrs. Ruby King
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mrs. Martha Laird
Mrs. Louise Allgood
Mr. James L. Dunn
Mrs. Velma Lane
Jimmy & Jo Jenkins
Mrs. Edith M. Lassiter
Mrs. Hazle M. Daniels & Family
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Hollimon & Family
Sitters, LLC
Gene Lee
Gene Lee's SSC, Union
South BC
Barbara Little
Sharon & Herman Dungan
Kermit & Phyllis McGregor
Mrs. Francille Lott
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton
Jimmy Lowery
Ms. Pat White
Cheryl Marchant
Jimmy & Billie Breland
Mr. & Mrs. Don D. Lindsey
Mrs. Mary Marsalis
Steve & Lou Warren
Beth Potin Marshall
Kaye & Curtis Buchanan
Mrs. Dale Nicholson
Ms. Heather Nicholson
Jimmie Ann Lewis Mashburn
Mrs. Jimmie M. Lingle
Bill McAlpin

Risk • Judges 6:11-16; 7:9-11, 13-15

"Risk" refers to opportunities we have to serve the Lord that cause us to feel inadequate. Our focus is on ways believers can demonstrate fidelity to the Lord during crisis situations. This week, we turn our attention to accepting God-given tasks with confidence in the Lord. Our character study focuses on Gideon, who experienced a great deal of anxiety when the Lord called him to deliver Israel from the Midianites.

1. Shift Your Focus (Judg. 6:11-16)

Initially, Gideon was focused on fussing. He questioned why the people of Israel had to experience such misery from the Midianites "if the Lord is with us" (6:13a; NIV). He also questioned the lack of the Lord's wonders recounted by his ancestors related to liberation from Egypt. He felt abandoned by God (6:13b).

The Lord sought to alleviate Gideon's anxiety by shifting his focus. Gideon wanted to fuss; God wanted him to fight. Gideon expressed his inadequacies for the job. "How can I save Israel," he asked (6:15a). He felt he was least in his family and his clan was weakest in Manasseh's tribe (6:15b).

The Lord responded to Gideon's expressions of inadequacies in a way reminiscent of His dealings with Moses (Exod. 3:22). Like Moses, God promised Gideon, "I will be with you" (Judg. 6:16). The Lord also promised

to give Gideon victory over the Midianites (6:16b).

2. Accept God's Prescription for Encouragement (Judg. 7:9-11)

Gideon wrestled with an overwhelming sense of inadequacy. So the Lord prescribed a cure for his unrest. Gideon was to take his servant Purah, go to the Midian camp, and listen to what they were saying (7:10-11a). The Lord promised Gideon he would be "encouraged to attack the camp" (7:11b). The term "encouraged" renders the Hebrew for "your hands will become strong." Interestingly, God's prescription called for Gideon to approach the enemy camp accompanied only by his servant. To obey God, Gideon had to risk approaching the enemy without as much as an armed escort for protection. Gideon dutifully obeyed.

3. Acknowledge God's Grace (Judg. 7:13-15)

As Gideon and Purah approached the enemies' camp, they overheard two soldiers talking. One was relating

to the other a bizarre dream about a "round loaf of barley bread" tumbling into the Midianite camp and striking a tent with sufficient force to cause the tent to be "overturned and collapsed" (7:13). His comrade immediately

provided the interpretation of the dream as a certain bad omen foreshadowing the impending doom of their camp by

the "sword of Gideon" (7:14).

What are we to make of this dream and of its interpretation? The Old Testament is replete with examples of God giving victory to His people in the face of overwhelming odds. In part, God deprived the enemies of their confidence. We noted in our June 10 lesson Rahab's confession to the two spies of her belief the Lord had given them the land. She expressed the "great fear" befalling Jericho's inhabitants and how they were "melting in fear" because of the Israelites (Judg. 2:9).

As the superior Midianite forces swarmed like locusts for battle (7:12), God reduced the size of Gideon's fighting force to a mere 300 men (7:1-

7). The battle would be won on God's terms not because of Israel's might. Regarding the dream, soldiers who have marched all day often feel hungry at night. The "round loaf of barley bread" (7:13) perhaps entered his mind in response to a hunger twang. God would do the same thing with Peter on the rooftop of Simon the tanner's house many centuries later (Acts 10:9-17). In both cases, God used natural hunger to turn people's thoughts toward His unfolding plan! Unfortunately for the Midianites, the news was bad. The "round loaf of barley bread" morphed into a military juggernaut, destroying the Midianite camp, symbolized by the overturned and collapsed tent (7:13b).

God's prescription for Gideon's angst worked. Upon hearing the dreams' interpretation Gideon "bowed down and worshiped;" then he went and roused his 300 men for battle. His battle cry tells the story, "Get up! The Lord has given the Midianite camp into your hands" (7:15). What will we do when God calls us to serve Him in ways that cause us to feel anxious or inadequate? Gideon stayed close to the Lord; so should we. When we know God is leading us to do something, let's take the risk of faith and get it done. Following God is worth the risk!

VanHorn is dean of Christian Studies at Mississippi College, Clinton.



Explore the Bible

with W. Wayne VanHorn

Wise • 1 Corinthians 2

"Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore!" Judy "Dorothy" Garland and her cute little Cairn Terrier puppy had just awakened somewhere over the rainbow in a dream land of vibrant, living color. Together, they would navigate the yellow brick road all the way from Munchkin-Ville to the land of OZ, searching for the man of wisdom who could help them return to the dusty land of living black and white. Go figure. Along the way, they meet a Scarecrow who must have a brain, a Tin Man who desperately desires a heart and a fluffy old cowardly lion who's looking for a little courage.

Thank goodness, believers in Jesus never have to pull on ruby red slippers and hit the yellow brick road in their search for The Source of True Wisdom. If we have a pinch of a piece of brain and that perfect peace of heart, we can take strong courage in knowing that the Holy Spirit Himself lives in us and works through us to provide the wisdom we need for every complex adventure of life. We can trade the one-two punch of drab, powerless black and white living for the joys of the whole Crayola box.

Our first three Sundays in July have declared that we can be free, victorious and empowered by God the Holy Spirit. We have learned that we can

be free from the penalty of sin unto salvation. We can be victorious over the power of sin in our daily lives. We can be empowered to walk daily in the Spirit. Next week, we will explore how we can have confidence in our standing with God through the blood of

Jesus and the witness of the Holy Spirit. This coming Sunday, through the writings of Paul recorded in First Corinthians, we will hand all the Wizards of Oz a pink slip in the "wisdom" department.

Spiritual wisdom is not for sissies. You don't get it on Aisle Seven at the local wall market. Spiritual wisdom is spiritually discerned, obtained from Wisdom Himself through relationship to His Son Jesus Christ and dispensed through constant contact with our wisdom instructor, His Holy Spirit. I have known some very smart, intelligent, (thought to be) wise people on my journey. Earthly knowledge and spiritual wisdom are two completely

different disciplines. All my life, I have heard the phrase, "That guy is so heavenly minded that he is no earthly good." Spiritual wisdom is not a permission slip to beat folks over the head with your knowledge. In fact, it has nothing to do with you at all. Earthly

knowledge is gained through training and pursuit. Spiritual wisdom is granted in love through relationship to

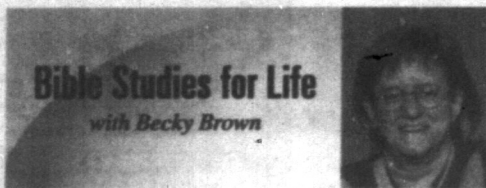
Christ and a desire to serve God.

In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul gives us the entrance requirement for the pursuit of spiritual wisdom. First, we must know Christ and Him crucified. Knowing Christ and making Him known must be our primary focus and prerequisite. What if our churches (and pulpits!!!) were filled with folks who had that desire? Second, Paul makes certain that his readers know that wisdom is not found in rulers of the present age. How blessed we would be if our leaders sought spiritual wisdom in decision making. Third, hu-

man wisdom is exactly that. Spiritual wisdom brings our heart, mind and thought life in line with what pleases God. We don't learn that at a desk in school, but inside a prayer closet with our eyes in The Word and our knees on the floor. Fourth, wisdom of God is not hidden from us, but willingly given by God to those who desire to live by it. Fifth, our spiritual wisdom will lead incrementally and grow exponentially into spiritual deeds that bring honor to God and spiritual words that bring glory to God.

Human knowledge can be achieved. Spiritual wisdom comes from a loving God who desires growth for His children. Spiritually wise children grow into spiritually wise adults who know God, love His Word, delight in being with His church family, desire to meet the needs of others and determine to use their gifts to serve the God of the kingdom. Luke 2:52 records that Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. If Jesus grew in wisdom, you can complete the rest of your responsibility in this sentence. You have the same Teacher and the same Father. Wise up.

Brown is the staff evangelist at First Church, Richland.



Bible Studies for Life

with Becky Brown

Just for the Record



Billy J. Barron, pastor, **EBENEZER CHURCH, HOLMES COUNTY**, has retired after a tenure of 25 years, 10 months. The church was destroyed by a tornado April 24, 2010. Barron remained at the church until the rebuilding project was completed and the church was debt free. Shown are Barron and his wife, Margaret.



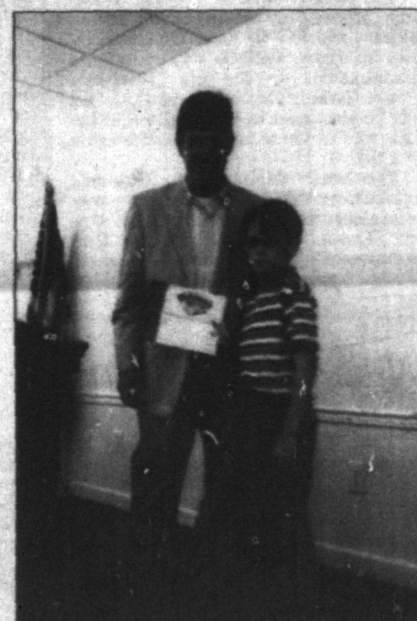
Children from **MT. OLIVET CHURCH, SCOTT COUNTY**, attended camp at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko in June. Bruce Robinson, pastor.



CENTRAL CHURCH, MERIDIAN, recently honored Janette Watson for her years of service as WMU president. She is shown with pastor Gary Blair.

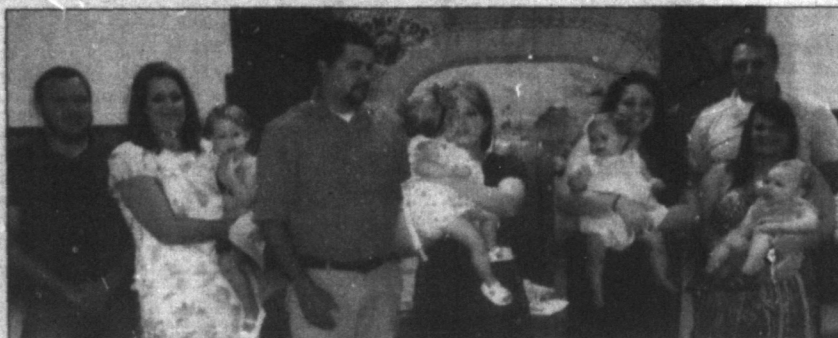


YOUTH FROM SILVER CREEK CHURCH, NCCOMB, attended M-fuge in Mobile, Ala., July 2 - 7.



MT. OLIVET CHURCH, SCOTT COUNTY, recognizes Ethan Crain, shown with pastor Bruce Robinson, who was the first Bible driller in the history of the church.

BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR, held a baby dedication July 8. Shown are Jason and Tammy Culpeper with daughter, Laken; Chris and Laura Ryals with daughter, Alyssa; Brooke Steele with daughter, Adalyn; and Barry and Terri Harrison with son, Ezra.



TRINITY CHURCH, MONROE COUNTY, had 5 GAs attend the Area 2 event, Mission Madness: Under the Big Top at First Church, Fulton, Apr. 21. Shown are Paige Tubb, Elizabeth McNeese, Hannah McNeese, Tara Robertson, Carleigh Goode, Cameron Tubb, and Melinda Christian.

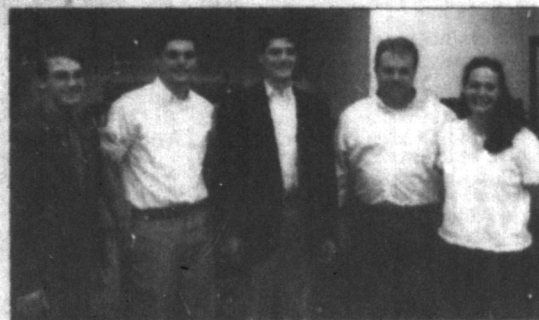
In other Church News:

➤ **Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville**, will host Red Roots in concert July 29, 6 p.m. Love offering.

➤ **Grace Fellowship, Lexington**, will host a free three night October Baby movie event Aug. 9 - 11, 7 p.m.

➤ **Mt. Horeb Church, Covington County**, will have a note burning service July 22, 10 a.m., followed by fellowship. John Reid, speaker.

➤ **New Zion Church, Tylertown**, will present Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames July 29, 30, and 31, 7 p.m. Free. Not recommended for children under age nine.



EBENEZER CHURCH, BASSFIELD, held a commissioning service for Daniel Lee, who will be traveling to the Philippines in July to help Filipino Ezzard Ayson in building a church. Shown are Joshua Lee, Arron Lee, Lee, Jeffery Lee, and Angela Lee.